GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2912
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
LOSSES DUE TO FOREST FIRES
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest fire incidents in the country during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the details of casualties and the number of wild animals perished alongwith the extent of destruction caused by such fire incidents; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such fires in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) The number of fire incidents, as per the Forestry Statistics India − 2001, a publication by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education during the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in annexure.

(b) As per Ministry's estimate the annual loss on account of forest fires in the country is around Rs. 570 Crores. This does not include the loss caused by forest fires to biodiversity and habitat, soil fertility, forest regeneration etc. No major loss of wildlife has been reported. However, some losses in terms of destruction of habitat, nests, eggs etc. do take place which are difficult to quantify. As per the report received from State Forest Department, Uttranchal, 11 people died and 3 sustained injuries while fighting the fire during current year. As per the information received from State Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh, 5 labours lost their lives and one leopard is reported to have died due to forest fire.

(c) Ministry is providing financial assistance to the State Governments to take effective measures to prevent and control forest fires.

Annexure reffered to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2912 for answer on 11.08.2003 regarding `Losses due to Forest Fires`

Sr. No	States / Uts	No. of cases reported (during 1998-99)	No. of cases reported (during 1999-00)
1	Andhra Pradesh	52	35
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Nil
3	Bihar	Nil	Nil
4	Goa	Nil	1
5	Gujarat	551	526
6	Haryana	Nil	Nil
7	Himachal Pradesh	441	1902
8	Jammu and Kashmir	369	506
9	Karnataka	33	17
10	Kerala	141	130
11	Madhya Pradesh	123	205
12	Maharashtra	1815	1676
13	Meghalaya	1	Nil
14	Mizoram	44	25
15	Manipur	15	12
16	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
17	Orissa	N.A	536
18	Punjab	26	206
19	Rajasthan	37	33
20	Sikkim	171	20
21	Tripura	172	193
22	Tamil Nadu	264	193
23	Uttar Pradesh	581	N.A
24	West Bengal	25	13
25	A & N Island	1	Nil

26	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
27	D & N Haveli	7	11
	Total	4870	6240

N.A - Not Available